

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 AID-20

RSR-01 IO-12 /123 W

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R 260759 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2190

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANAA 910

E. O 11652: GDS

TAGS: YE, IR, PFOR, AINR

SUBJ: YAR AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE TO IRAN

MUHAMMAD AL- IBRAHIM, YAR AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE TO IRAN, HAS TWICE CALLED ON ME FOR SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS REGARDING HIS FORTHCOMING ASSIGNMENT. ON BASIS THESE CONVERSATIONS, BELIEVE IBRAHIM WILL BE A USEFUL AND COOPERATIVE COLLEAGUE FOR EMBASSY TEHRAN IN CONJUNCTION USG EFFORTS COORDINATE AREA SUPPORT TO YAR. IBRAHIM HAS STATED HIS WISH FOR CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH AMBASSADOR HELMS. IBRAHIM NOW RETURNING TO PRAGUE, HIS PREVIOUS POST OF ASSIGNMENT FOR FAREWELLS. EXPECTS ARRIVE TEHRAN ABOUT THE THIRD WEEK IN JUNE. BIOGRAPHIC INFO ON IBRAHIM AND OUR IMPRESSIONS BASED ON RECENT CONVERSATIONS AS FOLLOWS. EMBASSY PRAGUE MAY WISH ADD ITS COMMENT AND DEPARTMENT REQUESTED FORWARD TO TEHREK AND SANAA ANY FURTHER AVAILABLE BACKGROUND.

2. IBRAHIM BELONGS TO A DISTINGUISHED ZAYDI FAMILY OF SANAA ARISTOCRATS. HE ENTERED YEMENI DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1947 UNDER IMATE. FROM 1947-51 SENT TO
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CAIRO FOR TRAINING IN EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. WHILE IN CAIRO HE PARTICIPATED IN YEMEN DELEGATIONS TO ALL ARAB LEAGUE MEETINGS. ALSO ATTENDED UNGA SESSIONS 1947-49. 1952 RETURNED YEMEN AS FONOFF DIRECTOR GENERAL. LONDON AS CHARGE D' AFFAIRES 1952-61. AMBAS-SADOR IN AMMAN 1961-64. JOINED ROYALIST SIDE IN YEMEN' S 1962-68 CIVIL WAR. IN ROYALIST CABINET OPERATING IN SAUDI ARABIA SERVED SUCCESSIVELY AS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTER OF STATE AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION. RETURNED FROM SAUDI ARABIA IN 1970 NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. AMBASSADOR TO PRAGUE 1971-73.

3. IBRAHIM IS DIMUNITIVE IN STATURE AND THEREFORE PHYSICALLY UNPREPOSSESSING. HOWEVER, HE APPEARS TO HAVE AN INCISIVE MIND AND GOOD POLITICAL JUDGMENT. HIS POLITICAL VIEWS ARE BY NO MEANS AS CONSERVATIVE AS HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH ROYALIST FAC-TION WOULD INDICATE. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD US IS FRIENDLY AND COMPLETELY CANDID. HIS MARCHING ORDERS ARE TO EXPAND YEMEN' S RELATIONSHIP WITH IRAN IN POLITICAL AND AIR AFFAIRS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. HE RECOGNIZES AND WELCOMES CURRENT USG ROLE IN SUPPORTING YAR. WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT IN PURSUIT OF HIS MISSION HE STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR IN TEHRAN AS WELL AS WITH US EMBASSY. IBRAHIM SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL.
CRAWFORD

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NMAFVVZCZ

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